

premiums on seniors by 25 percent. They want to cut Medicare to balance the budget.

We all know that changes must be made in Medicare so it will be preserved and strong for years to come. But the Gingrich Republicans have just gone too far. It has been unfortunately, under the Gingrich leadership, a time of crises and chaos.

But no surprise. Listen to the Speaker on the Sunday morning talk shows, and I quote him, "I will cooperate, but I will never compromise." Those are not the words of a person who sits down at a negotiating table looking for a solution. That is the kind of growling and grousing and political rhetoric that most people are sick and tired of.

I have a proposal to change this and end this crisis immediately. It is called no budget, no pay. We are sending 800,000 Federal workers home today without pay. But guess what, Members of Congress still get their paycheck. So I introduced a bill on September 22 that said if Members of Congress do not keep Government running, default on the national debt, then, frankly, they do not get their paychecks. If we turned off the TV cameras and stopped the congressional paychecks, I predict this crisis would be over in 15 minutes.

AMERICA DESERVES BETTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, you know, to understand the crisis we are going through here in Washington today, you really only need to understand three words, NEWT GINGRICH and Medicare.

You see, from the beginning it has been NEWT's way or no way with reference to the way this Government would operate. NEWT GINGRICH made it very clear in the spring of this year, and he repeated it this summer, he repeated it again this summer, that he wanted this crisis. It was not something he was trying to avoid doing. He wanted to demonstrate to America and to the world that he was king of the mountain and that everybody had to salute him because he was the fount of all knowledge about the problems of the world.

The key part of NEWT's way or no way as far as this particular budget crisis is, of course, the one item that they chose to put on the continuing resolution that they sent over for the courageous veto President Clinton exercised, and that is Medicare. He wanted to send the seniors, he wanted to send the people with disabilities around this country a happy New Year's present in the form of a Medicare premium increase. It is the one irrelevant provision they chose to tack on a continuing resolution which, of course, would never have been necessary to send to the President at all if

they had simply had the willingness to do their job and pass the appropriations bills rather than messing around with all of this agenda of the radical right which has tied them up. It has not been President Clinton that caused them to get only 2 of 13 appropriations bills to his desk by September 30. It has not been the Democratic minority in the House or the Senate. They could not agree amongst themselves as to how crazy they would be with reference to passing what the chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations called payback time to the radical right and holding up the business that should have been occurring in getting these appropriations bills there.

No, cutting Medicare, raising the cost to the ordinary person relying on Medicare and NEWT GINGRICH explained the situation that we face today.

I have been very interested this morning to listen to my Republican colleagues as they responded to this crisis because they have told the people of America two things:

The first one is, "You know, we Republicans are not really as mean as you Democrats say we have been. We are just a little bit mean. I mean, we do not want to totally foul all the water supply of America. We just want to let it be a little bit more dirty than it is today."

On the environment, "We just think the environment ought to be a little more dirty than it is today."

"And we do not believe you should cut off the opportunity of students to go to school, they can pay just a little bit more, just another thousand dollars. It is not as bad as what NEWT GINGRICH and his group proposed in the fall to hike the price by \$5,000 to get a college education. We think raising it \$1,000 on middle-class families who are struggling to get a young person through high school so they can go to college, we think just a little bit more pain is okay."

And to our seniors, "Just a little bit more pain is okay."

Well, I think that America deserves better treatment than that. It is getting through NEWT GINGRICH, and we certainly do not need the kind of Medicare cuts he proposed.

GET THIS GOVERNMENT BACK TO WORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. WISE. Madam Speaker, I rise today; the sun has come up over the United States again, and yes, the Government continues, although in a truncated fashion.

In West Virginia, over 17,000 Federal employees face furlough, many of whom will be furloughed or are furloughed today. Many of these Federal employees live in my district, in the Second Congressional District.

We also in our own office, we furloughed half of the congressional employees that work for the Second District. The offices in Charleston and Martinsburg have been reduced to one person answering telephones for emergency services only. The mobile office which visits a different country every day during the month, of course, is not operating. So the congressional office, as well, is complying with this.

I think this is a very, sad state of affairs, Madam Speaker. The only cautious or the good news. I guess, is despite their fact we have so many Federal employees in West Virginia furloughed, so many services cut back, our own congressional services significantly cut back, the only good news is negotiations are taking place.

I predict that something could take place in the next 12 hours. If it does not, then I fear that this standoff is going to last for a long time.

What is really at issue, Madam Speaker? What is at issue is whether the President signs simple legislation that says the Government can continue for 3 more weeks or however long while the Republicans and Democrats, the White House, negotiate, and that simple legislation is about two pages long. I hold this up. It is proportionate in scale. However, what the President was sent was about this big in size. So this is what is needed to keep the Government functioning; this is what the President was sent. He was sent a lot of riders, special interest provisions, budget provisions that ought to be negotiated, a whole lot of strings attached.

This keeps the Federal Government operating. This is what the President was sent. And so what ought to be done is obviously send a single legislation that is necessary.

Unfortunately, had I voted for the continuing resolution or had the President signed it in this form, he would have been signing a Medicare increase, 25 percent, for 300,000 West Virginia senior citizens, costing West Virginia taxpayers even more, because they would have also been supplementing the 40,000 low-income seniors that cannot even afford that monthly premium increase of roughly \$7 a month. He would have been signing other significant changes as well.

What he would have been doing is signing the very budget agreement in many ways that has yet to be negotiated. I have not agreed with the President in every instance, but in this case I happen to think he is correct. When some say he is not doing his job, it is the Congress that has not sent him 11 of the 13 appropriation bills that are necessary for the Government to function. Eleven of their 13 still have not gone to the President 6 weeks after they were due.

We heard a lot of talk about the budget. The House and the Senate only last night finished the budget, well over 6 weeks late. There was nothing